

Hayworth slates town hall on his freeway opposition

By Doug Murphy
Staff Writer

In November Congressman J.D. Hayworth wrote letters to Arizona officials urging them to oppose building the South Mountain Loop 202 along Pecos Road.

Next week he will be in Ahwatukee Foothills to discuss his feelings about the South Mountain freeway in person at a town hall-styled event.

The meeting will be held March 22 at Desert Vista High School, 16440 S. 32nd St., from 6-7:30 p.m.

Hayworth has said his opposition to the 1988 routes stems from concerns about the freeway's impact on South Mountain Park; possible increased congestion on surface streets with the elimination of Pecos Road for a freeway; and health concerns with having a freeway so close to local schools.

The freeway was designed in 1988 to run from Interstate 10 in Ahwatukee Foothills, along where Pecos Road now is, through a corner of South Mountain Park and then north to reconnect with I-10 near 55th Avenue.

ADOT hopes to have a tentative route for the western half of the freeway by April. A decision on the eastern, Ahwatukee Foothills portion of the project isn't expected until the end of the year. Pecos Road is the only option for building the freeway unless the



AFN file photo

Congressman J.D. Hayworth will discuss his feelings about the South Mountain Freeway from 6 to 7:30 p.m. March 22 at Desert Vista High School, 16440 S. 32nd St.

Gila River Indian Community approves building the freeway on Indian land.

ADOT estimates that between 255 and 659 homes would have to be demolished to build the freeway along Pecos Road.

Hayworth is a six-term Republican representing Congressional District 5 that includes all of Ahwatukee Foothills.

For more information visit www.house.gov/hayworth or www.southmountainfreeway.com.

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